

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

AUGUST 2011 – ISSUE 47

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. Commerce Issues Request for Proposals (RFP) for Managing Land Use and Working Lands in Puget Sound Watershed

Commerce has issued a Request for Proposals from local and tribal governments for grants to reduce the conversion of ecologically important rural, forest, and agricultural lands, and to direct new development and population growth to existing urban growth areas (UGAs). Pre-proposals must be submitted by

September 19, 2011. Funding for this program is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program.

The WA Departments of Commerce and Ecology received the EPA funding to coordinate a six-year implementation strategy to protect and restore watersheds that drain into Puget Sound. This strategy is based on working in partnership with local and tribal governments and other regional entities to implement practical solutions that advance the priorities of the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#) toward achieving the ecosystem recovery targets set by [Puget Sound Partnership](#).

More detailed information for potential grant applicants is available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/grants_fed.html and at <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/site/1366/default.aspx>.

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2. Commerce to Update Urban Growth Area Guidebooks

In March 1992, Commerce developed a set of guidance documents for designating Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). *"Issues in Designating Urban Growth Areas – Part I"* and *"The Art and Science of Designating Urban Growth Areas – Part II."* Over the next nine months, the Department of Commerce will be updating these guidebooks. This is the first complete update to these original UGA planning guidebooks since 1992.

Commerce's new UGA guidebook will include statutory and rule changes to GMA since 1992, success stories and experiences from Washington jurisdictions in designating UGAs. Our goal is to create a guidebook that is more accessible, concise, user friendly, and easier to update. This guidebook will be published on the web for ease in updating and to provide convenient access to downloadable files and other helpful web resources.

This summer and fall, we will be looking for your advice on what the scope of the new UGA guidebook update should be and what kind of materials you would find useful. Between July and October of 2011 we will provide a survey to gather your input to help shape drafting the chapters. Then, you can see the draft work as it progresses and give us feedback on the chapters we have posted on our web site. We expect to release the final product April of 2012. If you [visit our project web site](#), you can [sign up for the project list serve](#). You can also see the base of documents we are working from now and take a [short survey](#) to help us decide what to cover. If you want more information or have a comment, you can send e-mail comments to: Bruce.hunt@commerce.wa.gov or call 509 280-3602.

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3. Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference is the largest, most comprehensive scientific research and policy conference in the region. The 2011 conference, co-hosted by Environment Canada and the Puget Sound Partnership, presents the latest scientific research on the state of the ecosystem. The conference also shares information on recent management actions and best practices to protect and restore the Salish Sea Ecosystem.

The conference features a broad range of topics, including:

- Marine, nearshore, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems
- Air and water quality as it affects ecosystem health
- Aquatic and terrestrial species and food webs
- Land use, protection, and restoration especially as they relate to growth and development
- Human health and well being
- Climate Change, including its effects on ecosystem processes and human health
- Development and application of decision support frameworks, models and systems to aid ecosystem management.

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia over three days, October 25 to 27, 2011 with the possibility of pre-conference workshops.

The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference organizers are seeking approval from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) (www.planning.org/aicp) for Certification Maintenance (CM) Credits.

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4. Housing Washington Conference in Spokane, September 26-28

Housing Washington is an annual conference on affordable housing featuring comprehensive forums for education & discussion, exhibitor showcase, "*Friend of Housing*" award ceremony, and special events. Recognized as a leading regional resource, it annually attracts a broad range of people working within the affordable housing industry under one roof. Complete schedule and registration information is available at: <http://www.wshfc.org/conf/>.

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5. 2011 Climate Change Survey – Summary of Results

In spring 2011, Commerce sent certain jurisdictions a survey about their activities related to climate change, as directed by the legislature in the 2009- 2011 state budget (ESHB 1244, Section 128). The survey focused on actions taken or planned related to planning for climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gases) and adaptation (planning for impacts), as well as which types of information had been helpful in conducting the work or that may be needed in the future. The results of this survey can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

This survey was similar to a statewide survey on climate change conducted in 2008, as part of a report Commerce prepared for the legislature. The results of the earlier survey were summarized in Part 3 of the *Meeting the Growth Management Challenge in Growing Communities: The Washington State GMA Effectiveness Report*. To review the 2008 climate change survey results, please click [here](#) and for the report appendices please click [here](#).

For more information on either report, or on local government activities related to climate change, contact Joyce Phillips joyce.phillips@commerce.wa.gov.

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